



ABERDEEN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

SUMMARY NOTES FROM JANUARY 17, 2018 MEETING

Attendees: Tom Fidler, Charles Jacobs, Uyesh Bhatti, Linda Walls, Karen Holt, Randy Robertson, Chief Trabert, Steve Horne, Dave Lynch, Phyllis Grover

- Welcome and Introductions Tom Fidler, Chairman
- Treasurer's Report Charles Jacobs
 1. Balance in checking account: \$9,112.83
 2. Balance in CD: \$3,726.90
 3. Bill Paid: \$2,850 to Custom Media Options for Annual Harford County Visitors Guide
- Updates from Subcommittees:
 1. Tourism Subcommittee- No update, other than hotels are slow at this point of time, but a lot of booking for 2018
 2. City Process Subcommittee: Don Curry was not present
 3. Development Code Amendments: Phyllis Grover discussed the 29 Amendments to the Development Code, in which the Planning commission made recommendations on January 3, 2018 to send back to the City Council. There was then another work session to discuss the amendment to the Planned Unit Development on January 10, 2018, in which the Planning Commission decided to strike the planned unit development, and replace it with expanded uses in the integrated business district (IBD).
 4. Business Incentives: George Robinson was not present, however the business incentives were the same as previously presented including: property tax rebates, reduction or waiver of water and sewer connection charges, waiver of building permit fees, and a reduction in water and sewer billing. In addition, Mayor McGrady wanted to add reduced or waived water hookups to new construction. Tom Fidler presented examples of other municipalities on both sides of the spectrum to either mitigate or encourage development, in which Charles Jacobs proposed a cost/ benefit analysis of each method.

- Marketing/ Retail Recruitment Strategy: Tom Fidler reported the Letter of Intent went out to Texas Roadhouse, Starbucks permitting is set, and is moving along. Tom is looking into other national retailers for a 9,000 square foot multi-tenant retail building, including Towson Hot Bagel, mission BBQ, Qdoba, and Chili's. As for the 34 acres off Beards Hill Road, there are interest for multi-family apartments and assisted living ventures.
- Department of Planning and Community Development: The Middleton Road contract was signed, and working on the extension to Beards Hill Road. The Planning Commission discussed their recommendations for the 29 amendments, and the planning code was sent back to City Council for review. On the community development side, there will be a second Main Street Business Meeting on February 15. An IT/Cyber Security job fair will be held in Aberdeen either the last week in March or early May. City of Aberdeen is working with Susquehanna Workforce in order to market the event.
- Harford County Office of Economic Development: Karen Holt gave updates on the state of Harford County, stating Harford County currently holds a AAA bond rating and they will be selling bonds on the 23rd. There will be a Riverside Business Park Breakfast in order to present different opportunities such as working with Susquehanna Workforce Network, workforce training, and creating synergy between businesses. There are four new products in which Harford County is offering: Revitalization loan, Tech Attraction fund, Entrepreneurial fund, and non-profit tourism funding. Harford is unveiling the Harford Has It Campaign in order to encourage residents to shop in Harford County. They have outlined the economic impact of shopping in Harford County, which will be presented at the Main Street Meeting. There were opportunities discussed for marketing the TOD area in Aberdeen and the Harford Has It Campaign.

Next EDC Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, February 21, 2018 at 8:00 a.m.